

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2018.

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The meeting convened at 7:00pm in Room 105 at Holliston Town Hall. In attendance: Chairperson Ken Szajda, Vice Chairperson Michelle Zeamer, Clerk Ben Sparrell and Sue Nersessian. Absent: Tim Maxwell, Dan Alfred, Vincent Murphy.

Mr. Szajda reported that the request for funding for a Police Department motorcycle had been withdrawn from the Warrant by the Board of Selectman at last night's meeting.

Community Preservation Committee Chair Frank Chamberlain discussed the request to appropriate \$225,000 for the Housing Trust from CPC funds to purchase a single-family home to be sold by lottery for affordable housing. There was a discussion regarding the Housing Trust, including the finalization of an affordable housing program which will allow CPA to use funds for this effort. Mr. Chamberlin reported that Holliston's affordable housing stock was below the State standard, but they are making progress.

The Committee proceeded to its recommendations on Warrant Articles for Town Meeting.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to reconsider Article 1 to replace amount of \$3,500. with actual amount of \$2,835. for Parks and Recreation Department's budget adjustment. Ms. Nersessian seconded and the motion to reconsider passed 4-0. Ms. Nersessian then made a motion for the Committee to approve the Parks and Recreation budget adjustment in Article 1 of \$2,835, and this was seconded by Mr. Sparrell, and passed by a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Szajda reported that more than \$3 million in the Free Cash account has been certified and asked the Committee to consider possible uses: including an offset to the tax rate or the pension liability, or an addition to the Stabilization Fund. Ms. Nersessian suggested looking to future potential capital expenditures. It was agreed to defer to Town Meeting regarding the use of \$3 million.

Mr. Sparrell made a motion to reconsider the Committee's recommendation on Article 8: Community Preservation Act Report. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion. Ms. Nersessian made a further motion to recommend favorable action on Article 8. This was seconded by Mr. Sparrell, and passed by a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Szajda reported that Article 14 regarding the Environmental Assessment at 9 Green Street had been withdrawn from the Warrant.

Mr. Szajda noted that the Committee had voted at the previous meeting to recommend unfavorable action on Article 15 regarding establishing a Revolving Fund for the Upper Charles Rail Trail given there was no other information provided to the Finance Committee to evaluate, and still considered unfavorable action.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to reconsider Article 18: Advanced Metering Infrastructure System, Mr. Sparrell seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Sparrell made a motion to amend Article 18 regarding Advanced Metering Infrastructure to say the transfer of \$25,000 for an Annual Service Agreement and related hardware is to be drawn from the Water Meter Reserve Fund. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 4-0.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to approve the final draft of the Finance Committee's message to Town Meeting. Ms. Zeamer seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 4-0.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 25, 2018, as amended. Mr. Sparrell seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 3-0, Ms. Nersessian abstaining.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Sparrell and passed by a vote of 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

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